

IN THE CLAIMSListing of Claims

Claims 1-52. (canceled)

1 53. (previously presented) A method of configuring a distributed parallel processing  
2 system, comprising:

3 providing a server system;

4 coupling the server system to a network, the network being connectable to  
5 distributed devices;

6 providing a notice to the distributed devices of a desire by the server system to  
7 configure the distributed parallel processing system through coupling selected ones of  
8 the distributed devices through the network, wherein the selected distributed devices  
9 are enabled by the server system to perform workloads for the configured distributed  
10 parallel processing system;

11 providing an incentive to the distributed devices communicating with the  
12 server system through the network in response to the notice to participate in the  
13 configured distributed parallel processing system;

14 generating a workload capability factor quantifying a workload processing  
15 capability for each of the selected distributed devices; and

16 managing the selected distributed devices participation in the configured  
17 distributed parallel processing system by the server system utilizing the workload  
18 capability factor.

1 54. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising generating an  
2 incentive value for a distributed device in response to a completed workload.

1 55. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising generating an  
2 incentive value for a distributed device in response to a workload capability factor  
3 generated for the distributed device.

1 56. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is generated in response to a performance in completing a benchmark  
3 workload.

1 57. (previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system  
2 schedules and allocates workloads to the selected distributed devices based upon the  
3 workload capability factor generated in response to the performance in completing  
4 the benchmark workload.

1 58. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is generated in response to a workload completed by one of the selected  
3 distributed devices for the configured distributed parallel processing system.

1 59. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

1 60. (previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the sweepstakes entry  
2 value increases for an increased workload capability factor of the selected distributed  
3 device.

1 61. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising the step of  
2 transferring a software agent from the server system to the selected distributed  
3 devices, wherein the software agent manages a workload performed by the selected  
4 distributed devices.

1 62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the software agent  
2 further provides information to a user about an increase in an incentive value offered  
3 for an increase in the workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

1 63. (previously presented) A distributed parallel processing system, comprising:  
2 a server system coupled to a network configured to connect to distributed  
3 devices;

4           selected distributed devices of the distributed devices coupled through the  
5 network, wherein the selected distributed devices are enabled by the server system to  
6 perform workloads for the distributed parallel processing system;

7           capability storage coupled to the server system for storing workload capability  
8 factors quantifying a workload processing capability for each of the selected of the  
9 distributed devices; and

10          incentive storage coupled to the server system for storing incentive values to  
11 be offered to the selected distributed devices as compensation for participating in  
12 performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system, wherein the  
13 server system manages the selected distributed devices participation in the distributed  
14 parallel processing system utilizing the workload capability factors.

1       64. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein an incentive value for a  
2 selected distributed device is determined in response to a completed workload.

1       65. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein an incentive value for a  
2 selected distributed device is determined in response to a workload capability factor  
3 generated for the selected distributed device.

1       66. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is generated in response to a performance in completing a benchmark  
3 workload.

4       67. (previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the server system  
5 schedules and allocates workloads to the selected distributed devices based upon the  
6 workload capability factor generated in response to the performance in completing  
7 the benchmark workload.

1       68. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is generated in response to a workload completed by one of the selected  
3 distributed devices for the configured distributed parallel processing system.

1 69. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the workload capability  
2 factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

1 70. (previously presented) The system of claim 69, wherein the sweepstakes entry  
2 value increases for an increased workload capability factor of the selected distributed  
3 device.

1 71. (previously presented) The system of claim 63, further comprising a software  
2 agent transferred from the server system to the selected distributed devices, wherein  
3 the software agent manages a workload performed by the selected distributed devices.

1 72. (previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the software agent  
2 further provides information to a user about an increase in an incentive value offered  
3 for an increase in the workload capability factor of the selected distributed device.

1 73. (previously presented) A method of configuring a distributed parallel processing  
2 system from a server system coupled to distributed devices with a network  
3 comprising the method steps of:

4 providing a notice to the distributed devices of a desire by the server system to  
5 configure the distributed parallel processing system through coupling selected ones of  
6 the distributed devices through the network, wherein the selected distributed devices  
7 are enabled by the server system to perform workloads for the configured distributed  
8 parallel processing system;

9 providing an incentive to the distributed devices communicating with the  
10 server system through the network in response to the notice to participate in the  
11 configured distributed parallel processing system;

12 generating a workload capability factor quantifying a workload processing  
13 capability for each of the selected distributed devices; and

14 managing the selected distributed devices participation in the configured distributed  
15 parallel processing system by the server system utilizing the workload capability  
16 factor.